

E2E: Part 12

Genesis 4:16-26 & Genesis 5

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1. Because of stable climate and fantastic genetics, the Bible indicates people lived hundreds of years. We can see this in Genesis 5 from the biblical genealogy.
2. In the earliest generations, clearly all marriages were at first interfamily marriages. Death had entered the world through sin, but genetics had not degenerated to the point of shorter life spans or genetic mutations.
3. Biblical record demonstrates that society develops out of two family lines:
 - Cain produced a line of those who rebel against God (Gen 4)
 - Seth produced a line of those who worship God (Gen 5)
4. The Bible does not depict the earliest humans as “Neanderthal” or mentally diminished. God’s design is order, and the skills of mankind are always used for the glory of God. (Genesis 4:18-22)
5. Lamech is a prime example of degradation within Cain’s line. He is further evidence that stepping out of God’s will leads to the decline of societal structure, not the improvement. (Genesis 4:23-24)
6. From the very beginning, we read that in Seth’s line mankind begins to worship God collectively. God is their life identity. (Genesis 4:25)
7. Seth’s line is identified foremost by who they belong to and their response to that identity.
8. There are two distinct lines in culture which remain; a society that is ungodly & self-serving which can appear highly accomplished from the outside, but inside it is void of true life.

HEBREW WORDS

Banah, (baw-naw'); – (begin to) build(-er), make, set (up)

QUOTES

"The Bible teaches quite plainly that the early patriarchs often lived to be nearly 1,000 years old and even had children when they were several hundred years old! Similar claims of long-life spans are found in the secular literature of several ancient cultures (including the Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, Indians, and Chinese)."

~AIG - 'Ancient Biblical Lifespans', Dr. Georgia Purdom and Dr. David Menton - 2010

"The entire passage echoes the spreading, metastatic, deadly effect of sin while maintaining a glimmer of hope for mankind in the righteous bloodline of Seth." ~Pastor Rich Bruce

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

While there are a lot of interesting ideas and information from this section of Scripture, it seems like the biggest issue as it relates to the rest of the Bible's story, to humanity, and to us, is the clear divergence between the lines of Cain (ungodly) and Seth (godly).

1. If nothing changes, what do you think your "line" or family legacy will be remembered for by the next generation or two? What do you want it to be remembered for? What have, are, or could you do to help create your own godly line of offspring?
2. Outside of attending church from time to time, how do you engage in "calling upon the name of the LORD" - ie. loving (or worshipping) God and deepening your love of him?